

## REMARKS

### Section 103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 15, 28 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki et al. in view of Yachia et al. In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish them from the cited references. The differences between the cited art and the stent of the present invention claimed are explained below.

The stent of Igaki is fundamentally different from the stent as now claimed in amended claim 33. As the Office Action points out, Igaki's stent has a coating 53. The purpose of the coating 53 of Igaki is to gradually release a drug (col. 2, lines 57-59). The drug may be for any of various purposes (col. 3 lines, 13-16), including a hyperplasia preventing agent, such as preventing restenosis involving the growth of the vessel through the stent, resulting in vessel closure in spite of the stent. The stent of Igaki, in its entirety, is biodegradable (col. 4, lines 1-5).

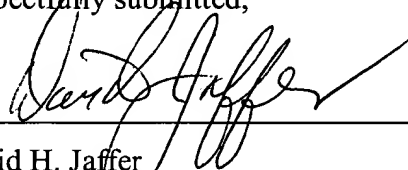
The stent of the present application as claimed is very different from the stent of Igaki. The purpose of the coating of amended claim 33 is to provide for subsequent removal after installation. This feature is different from that of Igaki. The Igaki coating 53 can have any thickness, and is designed for long term drug delivery. The stent of amended claim 33 is designed for a planned removal time, which requires different design specifications from Igaki on both the coating thickness and the rate of biodegradation. Also, the stent of Igaki is fully biodegradable, whereas the stent of amended claim 33 has a non-biodegradable base.

Applicant believes claim 33 as amended now distinguishes over the cited art and is in condition for allowance, along with remaining dependent claims 15 and 28. The invention as now claimed is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant has amended the claims and explained the differences between the amended claims and the cited references. If any further questions arise prior to a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 16, 2005

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Diana Dearing, certify that the enclosed papers are being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 16, 2005.

